Documents Pending for Registration under the Companies Act, 1956

847. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of documents field under the companies Act, 1956 with the Registrar of Companies are pending for registration/ recording;

(b) if so, the number of such documents pending for registration/recording as on 30th June, 2001 for more than a year; and

(c) the reasons for the large pendency and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JA1TLEY): (a) and (b) There were about 16.5 lakh documents pending for registration/recording as on 30.6.2001 for more than a year.

(c) The reason for the large pendency are: filling of a large number of documents under Company Law Settlement Scheme 2000, non-receipt of additional fees/less filing fees, or documents being defective otherwise. It is proposed to take on record documents with minor defects.

Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

848. SHRI DIN A NATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Chief Justices of Supreme Court would be sworn in and retired during the year 2002 and on what dates;

(b) the total number of vacancies of Judges of Supreme Court, as on date;

(c) the number of vacancies in the High Courts in the Country; and

(d) the measures Government are taking to eliminate the delay in the procedure of appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND'COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) During the year 2002, the office of the Chief Justice of India would fall vacant on May 06, November, 08 and December 19,2002. Three Chief Justices of India would retire, and three new Chief Justices of India would be swom in on these dates.

(b) and (c) As on November 21,2001, the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are as below:

Supreme Court	—	1
High Courts	—	170 (including 47 new posts)

(d) The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts *as* well as transfer of a Judge, including Chief Justice from one High Court to another, has been laid down in the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28,1998. Government has been addressing letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to make recommendations for appointment of Judges in the High Courts with a view to filling up vacancies expeditiously.

Non-Payment of dividends to shareholders

849. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND, COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of profit making companies are suspected to be faulty in the payment of dividends to shareholders;

(b) if so, who is responsible for the unchecked irregularities; and

(c) the steps Government propose to streamline the procedure to avoid recurrence of such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) to (c) If any company fails to pay dividend after its declaration, the-company and its directors can be prosecuted under- section 205A and 207 of the Companies Act, 1956 by the Department of Company Affairs, when it comes to the Department's notice.

Fast Track Courts

850. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Fast Track Courts have started functioning throughout the country;

(b) the number of courts alongwith classification therefore, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in starting the Fast Track Courts; and